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Weekend, January 8-10, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

HANDING OUT HARDWARE

Who were the most valuable, most overpaid Eagles in 2015? 24

UberBlack drivers sue over UberX. 4

Eugene Mirman: Beyond 'Bob's Burgers.' 18

NO MORE 'GAMES'

Natalie Dormer gets far away from 'The Hunger Games' and 'Game of Thrones' by heading into 'The Forest.' 17

JAMES DITTIGER

LIBYA BOMB ATTACK

1 At least 47 people were killed on Thursday when Libya's worst bomb attack since the fall of Moammar Gadhafi hit a police training center. No group immediately claimed the attack in the town of Zliten, but suicide blasts and car bombings have increased in Libya as Islamist militants have taken advantage of the North African country's chaos to expand their presence. REUTERS

YAHOO PLANS JOB CUTS

2 Yahoo is working on a plan to cut its workforce at least 10 percent and it could start the process as early as this month, Business Insider reported. "We are not confirming this rumor or commenting further," Sarah Meron, a spokeswoman for Yahoo, told Reuters on Thursday in an e-mail. The layoffs, which would result in more than 1,000 people leaving the tech giant, is set to affect Yahoo's media business, European operations and platforms-technology group, Business Insider said Wednesday. REUTERS

SUGAR CRACKDOWN

3 U.S. dietary guidelines released Thursday urged Americans to cut their sugar and saturated fat intake to less than 10 percent of daily calories, but consumer advocates said the curbs did not provide clear guidance on the need to lower consumption of meat. REUTERS

NEW EATS IN OLD CITY

7 The Little Lion restaurant opened Thursday on the corner of Chestnut and 3rd Street in Old City.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

BALLET FIRES BACK

4 The Pennsylvania Ballet has taken to social media to refute a disappointed Eagles fan's claim that the team played "like they were wearing tutus." Last week, a Facebook user went on the social media platform in an effort to criticize the team's losing season by equating their poor on-field performance with ballet performers, Philly.com reported. METRO

FACEBOOK

HOVERBOARD THEFT

5 A teenager from Brockton was arrested after he was caught holding a stolen hoverboard and laptop, and with hundreds of euros hidden in his pants, reports said. Nerilson Fontes Lopes, 18, was charged with two counts of breaking and entering, one count of hiding stolen property and one count of larceny, according to media reports. Lopes was caught after cops received a call about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday from a person who saw him crawling through a window into a residence on Anania Terrace. MATT LEE

ROBBER ONLY GETS TRASH

6 An armed suspect robbed the Chester Pizza at 55th Street and Chester Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia early Thursday but took only bags of trash. The owner was carrying trash to the curb when an armed assailant approached him, NBC reported. The suspect then robbed the owner of the bags of trash. JASON NUCKOLLS

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BRIEFS

Robb denied $3M+ in assets, court ruled

Rafael Robb, the jailed Ivy League professor and admitted wife killer, will not recover more than $3 million in assets, including his hefty pension from the University of Pennsylvania, a Montgomery County Court has ruled.

Remembered for bludgeoning his wife to death with an exercise bar in their Delaware County home in 2006 while in the midst of a divorce, Robb pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter a year later, and has been behind bars ever since.

Citing the state's "Slayer Act," the court blocked Robb's bid to recover money in the form of assets, an IRA and a $2 million-plus pension from Penn.

Common Pleas Judge Thomas DelRicci, ruling on a motion filed by attorneys for the estate of Robb's wife, Ellen Gregory Robb, denied the killer's motion seeking the money. Robb's attorneys argued that his estate, consisting of the couple's only child, had no legal right to the assets, the IRA or the pension. But the court disagreed. DeRicci opined, "Ellen Gregory would have been entitled to all or the majority of these funds if Rafael Robb had not beaten her to death before the divorce could be completed."

"We were very pleased that the court recognized that Ellen was very well on her way to emancipation, and that no one should profit from domestic violence, let alone the brutal killing that was reportedly the worst ever in Montgomery County in over 50 years," Ellen's brother, Gary Gregory, told Metro on Thursday. "He should not be allowed to enjoy his money while Ellen lies in a coffin after he slaughtered her," said Bob Mongeluzzi, the attorney for Ellen Robb's estate. "So it was a wise and very practical decision by judge DelRicci, who truly did justice in the truest sense of the word." METRO

A taxi driver protests UberX. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

UberBlack drivers sue Uber over earnings

Drivers for higher-end service Uber Black filed a class-action lawsuit, claiming that UberX is cannibalizing the drivers who signed up earlier.

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Weeks after a group of Philly UberBlack drivers joined forces with local cabbies to protest the damage they say UberX is causing to their business, local UberBlack drivers followed up by filing a class action lawsuit against Uber.

Drivers Ali Razak, Kenan Sabani and Khaldoun Cherdoud argue in court papers that Uber lured them into working as UberBlack drivers with promises of earnings of $90,000 — but their income plummeted after UberX launched without regulatory approval in October 2014, according to a copy of the lawsuit, which was posted online by PhillyVoice.

"As a direct and proximate result of UberX's illegal operation in Philadelphia, Uber Black drivers ... have been damaged," the suit, which was filed on Wednesday, states. "Uber has told Uber Black drivers to become UberX drivers, even though UberX is illegal and Uber Black drivers have invested thousands of dollars in operating costs."

There are now 10,000 UberX drivers, the suit states. The lawsuit also argues that Uber is now promoting UberX over UberBlack — for example, by making UberX the "default selection" on the Uber app. Uber Black, the more high-end version of Uber, launched in Philly in June 2012. In UberX, which is cheaper, drivers use their own cars. Uber Black drivers are also registered with the Philadelphia Parking Authority, which does not recognize UberX, as licensed limousine drivers. That application process costs $12,000, the suit states.

The drivers also object to being classified as "independent contractors."

That classification, they argue, allows Uber to avoid treating them like employees and meet requirements such as that they earn the state minimum wage, the court documents stated.

Uber spokeswoman Jessica Santillo did not comment directly on the lawsuit but said in an emailed statement, "Nearly 90 percent of drivers say the main reason they use Uber is because they love being their own boss."

A December survey showed Uber now has about 400,000 drivers nationwide.

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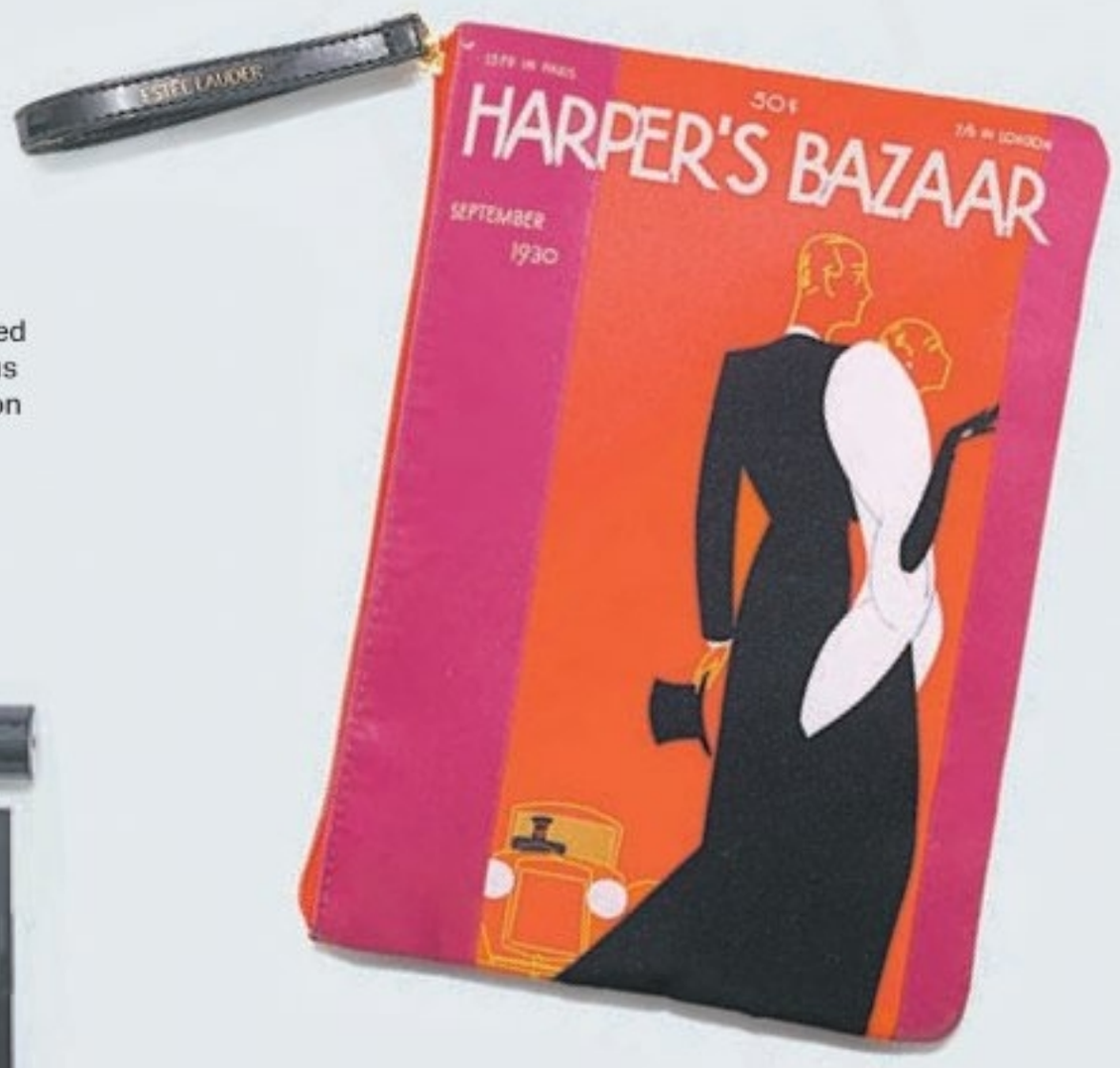

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RACE SHOULDN'T BE A SCAPEGOAT BY WHICH TO DEFEND BILL COSBY

ERNEST OWENS

The Ernest Opinion

Award-winning multimedia journalist Ernest Owens is a keen observer of social, LGBT and race issues in Philadelphia. Follow him @MrErnestOwens

Vacationing with my family over the holidays led to very heated and divisive conversations about the sexual assault charges brought against television icon Bill Cosby.

Some older members were conflicted on the nature of the cases. Many justifications were made — from discrediting some celebrity accusers to referencing the popular Quaalude drug culture of the '70s — but Cosby's race was a more contentious topic.

"It seems like the media wants to tear down any positive image of a successful black man — even if Cosby did do something wrong — I feel sorry for his legacy," said a family member. "When white men like Charlie Sheen or Woody Allen act up, they get a pass."

Excuse me, but Charlie Sheen having HIV doesn't warrant criticism from the media — because that's not criminal behavior.

Even though there's gossip that he may have hidden his status from previous sexual partners — which is a crime in some states — such rumors haven't gone any further than that.

As for speculation about Woody Allen's inappropriate relationship with his young daughter — it's akin to R&B star R. Kelly marrying the late singer Aaliyah at age 14.

Even though Allen is white and Kelly is black, neither faced legal action, and both continued to have successful, profitable careers.

Celebrity sex assault claims often result in financial settlements, which can give the impression that the color of money speaks louder than the color of skin. So it's important to note that when it comes to sexual assault, society must be mindful and sensitive when invoking race.

> *"Suggesting that his race is solely causing the backlash against him is dismissing the possible trauma of the black women who may have been violated by this black man."*

For one, both women of color and white women have alleged Cosby has sexually assaulted them. Suggesting that his race is solely causing the backlash against him is dismissing the possible trauma of the black women who might have been violated by this black man.

Yes, the justice system has had a terrible history of mishandling cases involving black men.

But our justice system has had a similar shameful track record with female rape victims, especially when it comes to allegations made against powerful, wealthy men.

Bill Cosby is no saint in any of this. In depositions made over a decade ago (that just became public last July) he revealed he has paid off women with whom he's had affairs and administered Quaaludes to women with whom he intended to have sexual intercourse.

I can't say whether Cosby is guilty of any of the charges. On one of the 55-plus sexual-assault allegations that have surfaced, a court will now decide.

I am saying that we should look beyond race for the reasons why many are upset and angry at America's former favorite TV dad.

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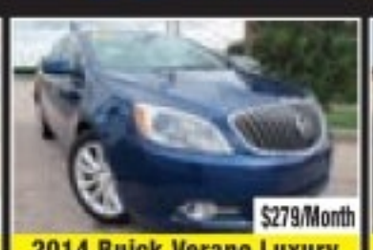
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Charity severs ties with family of child found in Love Park

Chosen 300 Ministries helped find a family with two small children a home.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The LOVE sculpture GETTY IMAGES

A charity that stepped in to help a homeless couple find housing after their 2-year-old son was found wandering around LOVE Park at midnight now says it has cut off ties, but the parents refuse to leave their new home.

"These people don't want help," said Brian Jenkins, executive director of Chosen 300 Ministries. "It was a hard decision. It just became very unproductive. There's so many other families that need our help."

The Chosen 300 became the guardians of $12,000 that was raised from the public in 12 days in an outpouring of support after SEPTA police officers found their 2-year-old son wandering around LOVE Park in October. Parents Michael Jones and Angelique Roland later contacted police searching for their son.

They told authorities they were sleeping in a different area of the park when their son wandered off, and that they were homeless because they had just been kicked out of a home.

The Chosen 300 rented a home in Grays Ferry and invited the parents to stay there while the charity linked them up with drug and marriage counseling, Jenkins said, so that they could meet requirements from the Philly Department of Human Services (DHS) to regain custody of their son and daughter.

But the parents repeatedly did not show up to programs, failed DHS-required toxicology tests, and were continuing to use substances without seeking employment, Jenkins said.

Now the lease has ended, but the parents are not paying rent and continuing to occupy the home as squatters.

"We are not just going to fund people sitting in a house, not willing to try to do anything, who won't go to drug counseling, who won't go to case management services, who didn't even show up in court for their last custody hearing," Jenkins said. "They're not even interested in getting their children back. They're interested in getting a free ride. We're out. We don't give out free rides."

Jenkins said the parents ran up a $600 room service charge — including food and alcohol — at a donated Marriott Hotel room they stayed in while their new home was being prepped for them. The parents also skipped case management and substance abuse counseling services, he said.

The family told 6ABC they did not participate because they felt pressured by the charity to participate in Christian activities, despite being Muslim.

"He [Brian Jenkins] wanted us to go to this Christian retreat. We Muslims, I don't knock nobody, but you're not going to send us to a Christian retreat to receive marriage counselling because we're getting married," Michael Jones explained to 6ABC.

His partner, Angelique Roland, told 6ABC also expressed her anxiety, saying she felt pressure to convert.

"I really was devastated and I didn't like the fact that he was doing that. I was feeling depressed. Back of my head, I was thinking, 'You're making me feel like I need to convert my religion.' I'm going to be who I am at the end of the day."

Jenkins denied any such pressure.

"Nobody forced anything on them," he said.

Notice of Procurement for Marketing & Fundraising Services

PhillySEEDS Inc., is seeking consultants to provide brand development & marketing with social media & fundraising services. The goal is to secure venders that will build brand awareness and create a following on social media that will set a foundation for successful fundraising opportunities.

PhillySEEDS' mission is to open doors for Philadelphia Housing Authority residents so they can expand or pursue an education & employment on the road to self-sufficiency. Go to www.phillyseeds.org to view the Request for Proposal (RFP).

The RFP separates the marketing services from the fundraising services and allows venders to respond to both or one component of the RFP as a single responder or in partnership with another entity.

The RFP is open for 30 days beginning January 8, 2016 and ends on February 8, 2016. Please mail your responses to 12 S. 23rd Street, Philadelphia PA, 19103, Attention: Mary Parks. Also, email your response to phillyseedsinc@gmail.com.

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American al Qaeda suspect pleads not guilty as US mulls additional charges

Al Farekh pleaded not guilty in federal court in Brooklyn to charges that he played a role in helping prepare one of two explosive devices for use in the Jan. 19, 2009, attack.

An American citizen who authorities say supported al Qaeda and assisted in preparing a 2009 car bomb attack on a U.S. military base in Afghanistan could face new charges that carry the death penalty, a U.S. prosecutor said Thursday.

The announcement came as Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh, 30, pleaded not guilty in federal court in Brooklyn to charges that he played a role in helping prepare one of two explosive devices for use in the Jan. 19, 2009, attack.

Prosecutors said an accomplice detonated one device, while Al Farekh's fingerprints were found on packing tape for the second device, which a second accomplice carried and did not detonate. The military base was not identified.

In court, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zainab Ahmad said prosecutors were considering bringing charges over the death of Afghan nationals in the attack based on evidence authorities had been gathering over the last few months.

> *"It seems to me seven years is more than enough time to consider if a death can be added to these charges."*
>
> Maher

Ahmad said prosecutors had also obtained a search warrant for Al Farekh's DNA to see if it matches a sample recovered from the packing tape.

"We expect in a month or two we'll know what we can prove," she said.

Seth Maher, Al Farekh's lawyer, said the announcement meant the Texas-born man could face "potential death-eligible counts."

He urged U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan to limit prosecutors from continuing to expand the case, which was first announced in April 2015 after Al Farekh was flown to the United States from Pakistan, where he was detained.

The hearing came after prosecutors unveiled a revised nine-count indictment on Wednesday charging Al Farekh with conspiring to murder Americans, use a weapon of mass destruction, bomb a government facility and aid al Qaeda. REUTERS

New Jersey road spill

An overturned tractor-trailer took out three lanes on northbound I-95 in Lawrence Township, New Jersey. The driver escaped with minor injuries. NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE FACEBOOK PHOTOS

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BRIEF

'Affluenza' case mom booked into jail on return to Texas

The mother of a Texas teenager, derided for a defense of "affluenza" in his trial for killing four people while driving drunk, was flown on Thursday to Texas from California and charged with helping her son escape to Mexico after he was suspected of violating probation.

Tonya Couch, 48, could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted in Tarrant County on a third-degree felony charge of helping her son Ethan, 18, flee after he was suspected of violating a probation deal that kept him out of prison.

During his trial for the 2013 accident, a psychologist testified on Couch's behalf that he had "affluenza," meaning he had lost the ability to recognize right from wrong after being spoiled by his wealthy family. The diagnosis, which is not recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, was widely ridiculed.

Ethan was sentenced in Tarrant County to 10 years of drink- and drug-free probation, which critics saw as leniency because of his family's wealth.

Couch and her son left Texas after a video surfaced on social media in early December showing Ethan at an alcohol-fueled party. The video raised questions about whether he had violated his probation agreement, which was reached in juvenile court after the fatal accident.

Ethan Couch is in a Mexican immigration detention facility while he fights deportation, which could take months. His mother did not formally apply to stay in Mexico.

She was deported in late December and sent to Los Angeles where she was taken into custody. She will be held on a bond of $1 million in Tarrant County, officials said.

Live television footage from broadcaster WFAA showed Couch being led off a plane and placed in a sport utility vehicle.

She is due to be arraigned on Friday morning on a charge of hindering the apprehension of a fugitive, said Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson, who met Couch at the airport. REUTERS

Tonya Couch GETTY IMAGES

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Dow marks worst start to year in over a century

The Dow has lost 5.2 percent since the end of 2015 in the worst first four trading days since the 30-stock index's creation.

U.S. stocks sold off further on Thursday, giving the Dow its worst start to a year since the 30-stock index was created in 1928, dragged down by another drop in Chinese equities and oil prices at 12-year lows.

China allowed the biggest fall in the yuan currency in five months, adding to investor fears about the health of its economy, while Shanghai stocks were halted for the second time this week after another steep selloff.

Oil prices fell to 12-year lows and copper prices touched their lowest since 2009, weighing on energy and materials shares. Shares of Freeport McMoran dropped 9.1 percent to $5.61. All 10 S&P 500 sectors ended in the red, though, and the Nasdaq Biotech index .NBI fell 4.1 percent.

"People see the weakness in China and in the overall equity market and think there's going to be an impact on corporations here in the United States," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Boston Private Wealth in New York.

"When you have a market that begins a year with weakness, people are sort of suspect anyway. The economy isn't moving all that well, the outlook is modest at best, and they don't want to wait for the long term. China creates more uncertainty."

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

The Dow Jones industrial average .DJI closed down 392.41 points, or 2.32 percent, to 16,514.1, the S&P 500 .SPX had lost 47.17 points, or 2.37 percent, to 1,943.09 and the Nasdaq Composite . IXIC had dropped 146.34 points, or 3.03 percent, to 4,689.43.

Stocks extended declines late in the session, and the CBOE Volatility Index .VIX, the market's favored gauge of Wall Street anxiety, ended up 21.4 percent at 24.99, its highest since Sept. 29.

Investors also braced for Friday's U.S. government jobs report, which could show how well-insulated the U.S. economy is from international stresses. REUTERS

BRIEF

US jobs market holding firmer despite slowing growth

The number of Americans filing for jobless benefits fell last week and layoffs in December were the smallest in 15½ years, pointing to labor market strength even as economic growth appears to have slowed sharply in the fourth quarter.

Coming on the heels of a report on Wednesday showing private payrolls in December notched their biggest increase in a year, the data on Thursday suggest the economy's fundamentals remain healthy as it struggles against the headwinds of a strong dollar, bloated inventories and energy sector investment cuts.

"The data are supportive of continued job gains. You don't go into a recession with jobless claims and layoffs at these low levels," said Jacob Oubina, senior economist at RBC Capital Markets in New York.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 277,000 for the week ended Jan. 2, the Labor Department said. The decline partially unwound the prior week's jump, which had lifted claims to their highest level since early July. REUTERS

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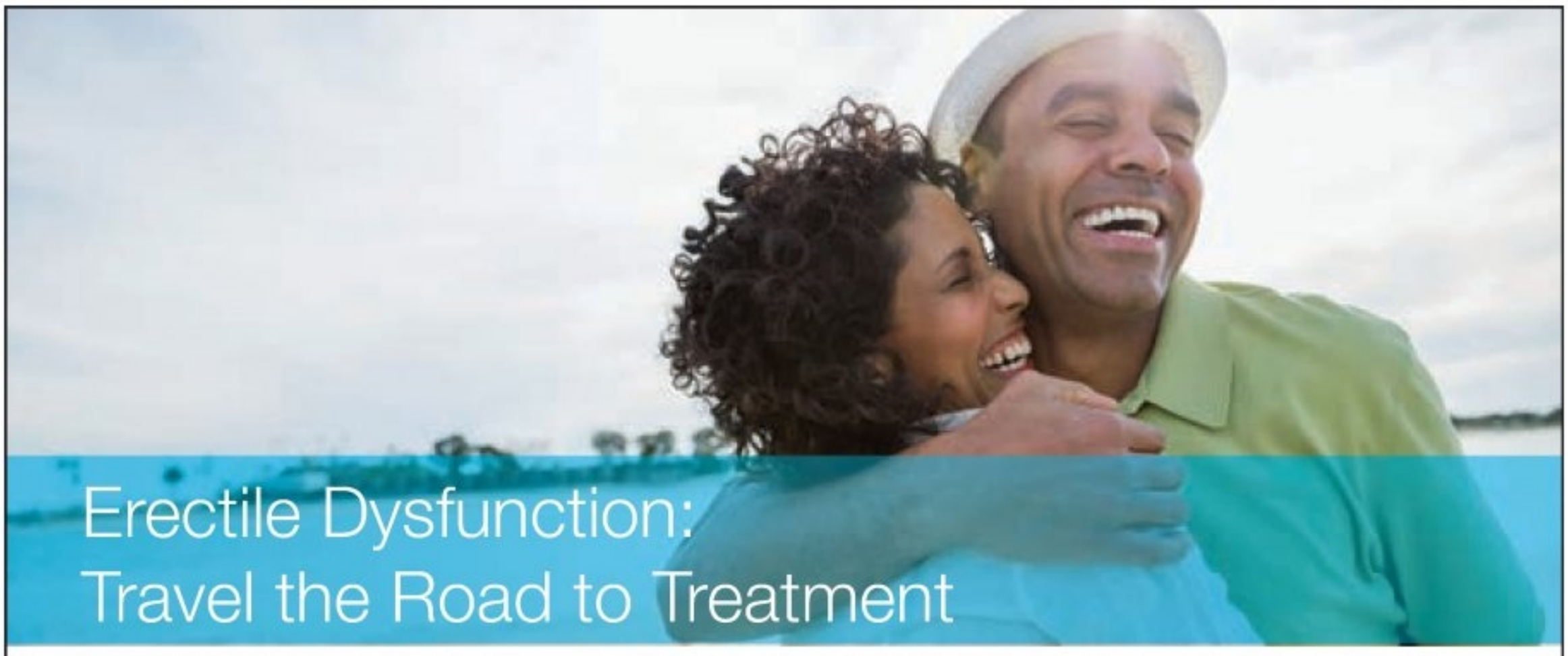

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Decisions we make today will determine the role of the NEC in our future. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for NEC FUTURE, which presents alternative visions for the future of the NEC. The FRA is seeking your input on the future role of rail transportation in the Northeast. The Tier 1 Draft EIS is available for review online at **www.necfuture.com** and at public libraries along the NEC.

Comments may be submitted online, emailed to **comment@necfuture.com**, or sent to USDOT, Federal Railroad Administration, One Bowling Green, Suite 429, New York, NY 10004. Or attend one of 11 public hearings to submit your comment in person, including the Philadelphia, PA hearing:

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In the event of inclement weather, hearings may be cancelled or rescheduled; please check the website at www.necfuture.com. If you require assistance to attend, please contact the NEC FUTURE team at comment@necfuture.com at least five days prior to the hearing you wish to attend.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Comments will be accepted until 1/30/2016.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Paris police kill man armed with meat cleaver on Charlie Hebdo anniversary

Armed police stand guard after a man was shot dead by police Thursday in Paris. GETTY IMAGES

The attack came just minutes after President Francois Hollande had given a commemoration speech elsewhere in Paris.

French police shot dead a man wielding a meat cleaver after he tried to enter a police station Thursday, the anniversary of militant attacks in Paris, shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) and wearing what turned out to be a fake suicide belt.

The Paris prosecutor said the man was also carrying a mobile phone and a sheet of paper bearing the Islamic State flag and a claim of responsibility by the militant group written in Arabic.

According to a judicial source, Ali Sallah was a Moroccan born in 1995 in Casablanca. He was homeless and known to police for theft in 2012 in the Var region of southern France.

French Justice Minister Christiane Taubira told French television i-Tele that from what was known so far, the man had no known links to violent Islamist radicalism.

She suggested he may have been mentally unstable.

Security concerns intensified further in France in November when 130 people were killed in shootings and suicide bombings targeting a Paris music hall, bars, restaurants and a stadium.

Those attacks were claimed by Islamic State, the militant group that controls swaths of Iraq and Syria. Several of the militants involved were, like the Hebdo killers, French-born. In his statement, Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins said a terrorism inquiry had been opened into Thursday's attack.

"[The man] shouted 'Allahu akbar' and had wires protruding from his clothes. That's why the police officer opened fire," a police official said.

French Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet later said the suicide belt the man was wearing was fake. REUTERS

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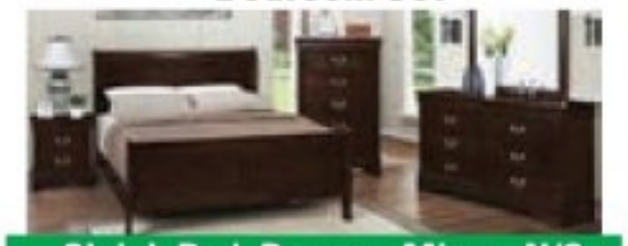

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NO, THAT WON'T HAPPEN

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the new book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

With 2016 now rolling like a giant bowling ball across the land, I can hear the "resolutions" being smashed coast to coast. Sure, we all meant well when we made them, but alcohol, late nights, and skanky dancing can lead to rash actions — just ask Justin Bieber. In any event, as a Reality Checker for this year's presidential contest, I have turned my eyes on you — the dedicated voters — to prognosticate about what you may find in the coming months, despite your best political resolve.

1. You're not going to toss Donald Trump out of this race. You may mock him, disparage him and even shout "You're fired!" as his helicopter buzzes by; but too many of you still love the way he is bull-rushing his fellow Republicans, scattering them like rodeo clowns. And the idea of him locking horns with Hillary Clinton? You get the popcorn, I'll mix the sangria. It's rodeo time!

2. You'll try to hold Congress accountable, but once again you will fail. Face it: The major parties are lousy at passing laws, holding civil discussions and working out compromise, but they can hold onto offices in the Capitol like grim death. Thinking you'll change that is like your annual pledge to learn a new language; it's well-intentioned but hopeless. Verdad?

3. As President Obama's final year in office burns away, those of you who are fans will try desperately to say he's done a great job, even though polls show Americans aren't convinced. Those who don't like him will try even harder to suggest he's the worst chief executive ever. My advice: Don't retire that trophy yet.

4. Whoever wins in November, the election will be close and half the country will be unhappy. Really unhappy. Some voters will declare they are moving to Canada. Then they'll look at the weather forecast for Ottawa and change their minds. Saskatoon? Let's not even talk about it.

Republicans call for more naval resources amid South China Sea dispute

Tension over the South China Sea highlights the need for the United States to maintain a strong navy to serve as a deterrent, House Speaker Paul Ryan said on Thursday, criticizing the Obama administration for proposals he said would reduce the U.S. naval fleet.

"This just shows that we need to have a strong navy,"

Ryan said at a news briefing. "We should not have a president proposing to lower our ship count to pre-World War I levels. This means we need to have a strong military and a strong navy, and a real foreign policy, which we do not now have."

Ryan's comments came one day after China again landed a plane on a disputed island in the waters, which are disputed territory claimed by China as well as Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Republican presidential candidate and Sen. Marco Rubio echoed that call, saying that, if elected, he would sail U.S. ships through the contested South China Sea to challenge China's claimed air and sea rights and work with other allies in the region.

"We need to reinvigorate our Pacific military alliance, and that begins with the United States investing the resources necessary to rebuild our navy," Rubio told Fox Business Network in an interview on Thursday.

Neither Ryan or Rubio said how much they would allocate in resources for the U.S. Navy.

House Speaker Paul Ryan GETTY IMAGES

Republicans, who are seeking to take control of the White House from Democrats in the November presidential election, have made U.S. President Barack Obama's foreign policy a key campaign issue.

REUTERS

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Don't bore *Natalie Dormer*

Dormer did not take a selfie here. LIONSGATE

THE FUN STARTS HERE

The "Forest" star would rather not talk "Hunger Games" or "Game of Thrones," thank you very much.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Natalie Dormer is sick of questions about "The Hunger Games" and "Game of Thrones."

Luckily, this journalist has no queries about the former and has never seen a single episode of the latter. "You and I are going to get on like a house on fire," the English actress blurts out.

Instead, we're talking about "The Forest," a new horror film in which she plays a young American trying to find her twin sister, who's gone missing inside Japan's dense Aokigahara forest — a beautiful but feared place where some people go to commit suicide. When she arrives inside the forest, strange things start happening.

Not that Dormer, 33, would do just any old horror film.

"The Forest" is an unusual horror film. It's heavy on ideas, about grief, sibling love, even a bit of feminism.

It's a smart horror movie. It's a thinking person's horror movie. So I can talk about it in a junket and sound halfway intelligent. [Laughs] That's why I took the role. I've never contemplated, in real seriousness, doing a horror movie before. I'm a film snob. I like genre made at a high spec. I wasn't a horror fanatic. I don't really get a joy out of scaring myself, so I don't seek it out in horror movies. But I know a good movie when I see one, like "The Others," "The Orphanage," even "It Follows" from last year. Good storytelling is good storytelling.

Still, you have to do a lot of technical stuff, like acting scared and running.

[Laughs] I got really, really, really good at bolting through a forest as quickly as possible, avoiding roots that are going to break my ankle or branches that are going to take out my eye, then stopping dead in the exact right position I needed to. I'm really good at sprinting and stopping now.

You didn't shoot in the Aokigahara, but you did spend some time there. Did you actually step off the path, which people advise not doing?

I stepped five meters off the path. My driver wouldn't step half a meter off the path. I thought he was joking at first. I stepped off and clamored over the roots. I turned away and my driver wouldn't step off. I was like, "Come here and take a selfie with me." He genuinely would not step off the path. That made me reassess it, because they're a very respectful culture. They are superstitious, and they are spiritual, and they're very respectful of the heritage. And there's a lot of heritage in the Aokigahara forest.

Horror is also a genre that, more than most, features female protagonists. Do you sense that the meatier female roles are in genre films, even now?

I genuinely think the tide is turning on that. Cinema is finally catching up with what television has known for a long time, which is that three-dimensional, fully fleshed-out characters who are contradictory — i.e., they read as real human beings — are commercial. The message is finally coming through. Katniss Everdeen as a blockbuster character proves that; the money argument doesn't stand. They're 50 percent of your audience, so please cater to them.

Behind the lens

You actually co-wrote a film with your fiance, Anthony Byrne — a thriller called "In Darkness," which you're about to shoot. How did you find being on the other side of the process?

Really enjoyable. Traumatic as well. Getting notes is a traumatic process. You have to learn not to take it personally. If anything, it only enhances my respect for writers, what they get from directors and other people during the process. We can have this conversation in a year's time, and we'll see if it worked.

GETTY IMAGES

Eugene Mirman will do 'anything' for art

The "Bob's Burger" star talks about that one time at summer camp ...

CHRIS CAESAR
@ChrisCaesar
letters@metro.us

Comedian Eugene Mirman SHAWN BRACKBILL

Eugene Mirman is a bit of an Internet legend — and not just because he's funny.

The Russian-born, Massachusetts-raised comedian took out a the full-page ad after receiving a $15 parking ticket in New Hampshire in 2015. His very public declaration of disapproval, signed "With Great Disappointment in You," subsequently went viral — but don't worry, he paid the ticket.

But the rest of his year was pretty sweet, too. His Netflix special ("Vegan on His Way to the Complain Store") debuted in July, he reprised the voice of Gene Belcher on the sixth season of "Bob's Burgers" and dropped a nine-disc experimental comedy album, "I'm Sorry (You're Welcome)," in October.

We sat down with the voice behind the Belcher middle child ahead of Sunday night's premiere.

Where'd you get the idea to make a nine-disc comedy album?

It started as a joke, where I was going to make a 100-disc album, and at some point I realized I could still make a ridiculous, but much smaller, nine-disc album. Basically, [it] started as a joke.

I read that the album's featured "45 minutes of crying" is a real recording of you crying on a porch in Cape Cod. Is that true?

That is very accurate. It's the house where I got married. I really wanted to have a sticker on my album that said "Featuring over 45 minutes of crying," [so I knew] to have that sticker, I'd actually have to cry for 45 minutes.

I don't think I've cried for 45 minutes straight about anything.

[Laughs] Anything for art.

On your Reddit AMA, you mention that a storyline from "Home Movie" — in which Coach McGuirk is pranked by a camper who pees in his canteen — was inspired by something that happened to you at summer camp.

I think at camp someone had peed in my canteen, and then I think they washed it. It was a tough time for immigrants back in the '80s. [laughs]

You made your own major for a B.A. in comedy in college. What's your take on Emerson College offering that as a major?

It's great. It's funny, I think, because comedy can seem more ephemeral or something; people think of it as you're learning how to be funny. When you're studying comedy, you're probably studying the process of ways to be funny — trial and error, learning how to write scripts, form jokes — and I think that, in the same way you'd learn writing or photography or anything else that seems more like a talent than a craft, often isn't. It's very craft- and work-based.

Do you think it had an impact on your career?

I think it's a somewhat impossible question to answer. There's no formula. It's not like going to medical school and you do this and this and this. The process of majoring in comedy at Hampshire [College] was really helpful in trying to figure out how to be a comedian.

In your AMA you also mention pooping your pants as a child while shopping with your parents in a [department store.] Is that true?

[laughs] Yes, yes, in Woburn. I was heading to the bathroom at the time.

I don't mean to dredge up all of these traumatic childhood experiences.

I know! You're like, "Let's go through a tour of weird experiences in New England." It'd be great if I just said, "That didn't happen; it's just a thing I say." but I am sure I have at least one story about every old Boston-area department store.

Bob's Burgers returns to FOX this Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

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Natalie Dormer probably shouldn't head into the woods in "The Forest." FOCUS FEATURES

"The Forest"

Director: Jason Zada
Stars: Natalie Dormer, Taylor Kinney
Rating: PG-13

• • • • •

As Sara, a woman searching for a missing person amongst the wild in "The Forest," Natalie Dormer is intelligent enough to make you think she's not just another dumb horror movie protagonist. The "Game of Thrones" actress might even periodically convince you this is a smart movie — a horror film that, more than most, is really about something, namely grief and trauma and sibling love. For a while, especially as night falls, you expect Sara to find ghosts or demons or ghouls; instead, she finds a spiritual manifestation of her childhood tragedy — "Solaris" with trees.

That's a lofty comparison, and "The Forest" sometimes seems up to the task. But it's also muddled, overly taken with cheap boos and not nearly creepy enough. The good elements put up a good fight, chief among them Dormer, whose sis Jess (a brunette Dormer), has gone missing after entering the haunting (if not haunted) Aokigahara forest in Japan. Sara heads into the forest alongside Aiden (Taylor Kinney), a strapping travel journo who seems nice — maybe too nice.

But even with Sara's increasing unease around her increasingly suspicious companion, director Jason Zada has trouble mounting tension, and one patch of the forest quickly starts to look like any other. When Sara begins having visions, they're done as quickie visual assaults, and the backstory fails to cohere. It tries to make the scares organic to not only the story but the ideas bubbling underneath, but the writing is too sloppy, and it can't quite make the connection. It's a truly noble failure — a movie that holds together, if at all, due to the effort of a lead who deserved the superior film "The Forest" seems to think it is. MATT PRIGGE

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Leonardo DiCaprio goes feral in "The Revenant." TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

"The Revenant"

Director: Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu
Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy
Rating: R

• • ○ ○ ○

"The Revenant" is a harsh film that was hard to make, and it never wants you, over its 156 minutes, to forget it. If filmmaking can be macho, here it is at its man-manliest. It took 10 years to make, nearly a year of that to shoot. It boasts a serious former "Tiger Beat" staple who wants his Oscar already, namely Leonardo DiCaprio as a fur trapper after an epic CGI bear-maul, trying to get back to civilization and wreak vengeance on the man who left him for dead (Tom Hardy).

"The Revenant" might have even gotten away with it by being less: having a shorter running time and fewer look-at-this-sweat powerhouse shots, or being completely stripped down to a minimalist nub. It might have also, conversely, been better as more, with a storyline that's not just a thin tale of survival and revenge ending in a fat, indifferent anticlimax. It even has a look-at-me-ma final shot of ambiguity, though there's really only one way to read it: as cast and crew staring you down and asking, "Are you not entertained?" MATT PRIGGE

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David Thewlis and Jennifer Jason Leigh are two of three voice actors in Charlie Kaufman's sad puppet movie "Anomalisa." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

'Anomalisa'

Director: Charlie Kaufman and Duke Johnson
Voice of: David Thewlis, Jennifer Jason Leigh
Rating: R

●●●●●

Charlie Kaufman movies used to be funny. They still are, kind of. The movies made from his ostentatiously clever screenplays, including "Adaptation" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," were often hilarious, even as they plunged into brutal honesty and depressive headspaces. The two films he's directed himself are full-on, no-joke depressive. That's not to say there are no yuks in "Synecdoche, New York" and his latest, "Anomalisa" (co-directed with Duke Johnson), though they're funny only occasionally, as if he simply couldn't resist a gag. But both are deep stews in one person's overwhelming and suffocating misery, using high-concept gimmicks to trap us inside crushing solipsism.

The gimmick in "Anomalisa" is not just that everyone's a puppet; it's that to its semi-hero — beloved motivational speaker Michael Stone — everyone is so boring that they all speak with the same voice. Michael is voiced by Englishman David Thewlis; everyone else gets the creepily placid cadences of Tom Noonan. Holing up for some hotel room drinking during a Cincinnati conference, Michael wanders lonely through life — until he suddenly and mysteriously hears a unique voice among the Noonan din. She's Lisa, and she boasts the voice of Jennifer Jason Leigh. Not that she's unique; she's painfully ordinary — a wallflower who can't believe it when a small-time celebrity is asking her for some hot puppet sex.

Even with all the puppets, "Anomalisa" feels smaller than Kaufman's previous work. His older scripts teemed with ideas and gags. "Anomalisa" is more focused, almost single-minded. The jokes, when they come, can seem forced. Still, it has an unusual-for-Kaufman emotional directness. The saddest movie of his career, "Anomalisa" can often seem as small as Michael's tiny, shallow vision of the world. But that seems appropriate to the material, as well as like an artist sanding his shtick down to the nub. MATT PRIGGE

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Improvising on stage

Archer Spade is inviting local musicians for an unpredictable series.

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Despite the two rows of chairs on and in front of the stage at the Rotunda, only one musician emerged after presenters Dan Blacksberg and Nick Millevoi made their introductions last Sunday afternoon. As trombonist Connor Przybyszewski played, a few other musicians appeared — percussionist Ashley Tini with a few cymbal crashes, Julius Masri adding synth blurts and drones. Over the next 15 minutes, 17 players came and went, some wandering through to interject a single noise, others sticking around to add to an accumulating swell of unpredictable sound.

Experimental music

The idea for afternoon performances came from composer/saxophonist John Zorn's ongoing series at his New York club, The Stone. Realizing they could catch a show there and still have time for dinner before playing their own gig, Blacksberg and Millevoi became excited by the prospect. "We spent the whole day not shutting up about how cool that was," Millevoi recalls. "We're not competing with bands playing at a bar or somebody's friend's party. It's not traditionally the way something like this happens, but this is an experiment to see if there's a reason why not."

Blacksberg adds, "For music to be experimental, the way you organize it also needs to be experimental. We're just trying to go bigger and different."

That was just one piece of several at Sunday's inaugural performance by the Archer Spade Spectrum Ensemble, each one using different techniques to guide the wholly improvised sounds of the large band. Archer Spade began life as the duo of trombonist Blacksberg and guitarist Millevoi, longtime friends and collaborators. The pair added concert presenters to their titles with a series of shows featuring music written for them by a variety of composers, along with other like-minded artists.

They became curators and organizers as well with last summer's Spectrum Festival, which brought together more than a dozen local musicians to spark new collaborations and ideas in the Philly improvised-music scene.

That effort continues with this month's Spectrum Ensemble Sunday Matinee Series, which continues over the next three Sunday afternoons at venues around the city. "After the festival there was too much camaraderie and connection between all of us to not develop that further," Blacksberg says. "It's primarily developing as an ensemble, but we both want it to be more than that. It's a group of people, it's a community, and it's an opportunity for the people within the ensemble to build new groups among themselves."

Each show in the series will present a different way of looking at the ensemble, each in a different neighborhood. Following the debut of the entire group last weekend, this Sunday's show in South Philly will subdivide the orchestra into a variety of large and small combinations. Later shows in Germantown and Fishtown will present pre-existing groups containing members and impromptu smaller combinations.

The Archer Spade Spectrum Ensemble series kicked off at the Rotunda. CHRISTOPHER MCDONALD

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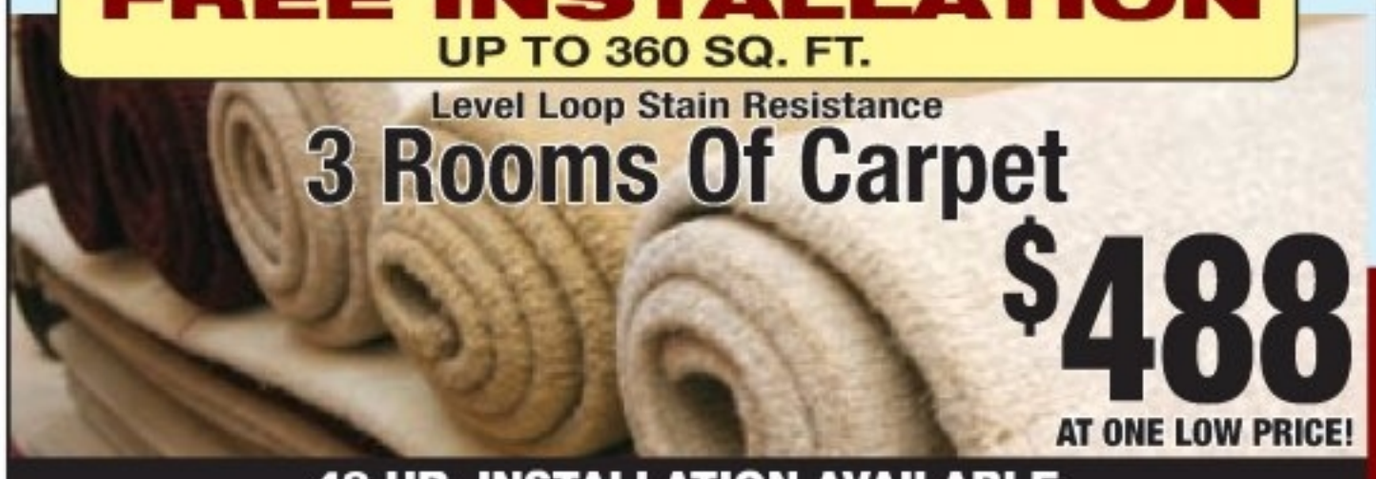

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How is the new David Bowie?

The music god has a new record, "Blackstar," out today, his 69th birthday. We see how it ranks among his less-loved, post-"Let's Dance" era, which is spotty but often very good. MATT PRIGGE

David Bowie is pretty weird on his 25th album, "Blackstar." JIMMY KING

"Blackstar" COLUMBIA

Near-peak

Nothing after "Let's Dance" can touch even his lesser best. But a few times he came close. **"Outside,"** from 1995, is a madly ambitious semi-rock opera about a dystopia where art is banned.

After a hiatus, Bowie stormed back with 2013's electric **"The Next Day."** The new **"Blackstar"** is nearly as good, and, apropos of Bowie, very, very different: It's him in full-on weirdo art mode, offering up song cycles and non sequiturs over noodly instruments.

"Earthling" VIRGIN

Interesting

The '80s were creatively fallow, but you can hear him starting to get his mojo back starting with the soundtrack to 1993's TV film **"The Buddha of Suburbia."** 1997's **"Earthling"** pairs hyper-aggressive industrial noise with warm and elegant melodies.

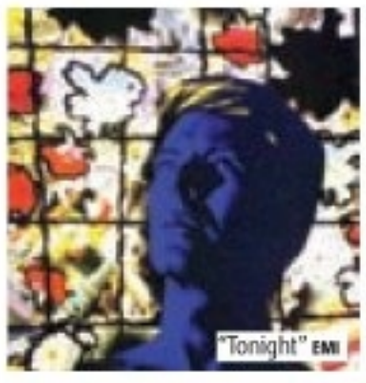
Bowie wound up abandoning 2001's **"Toy,"** but when he finally released 2002's **"Heathen,"** it almost lived up to the hype of being a classic Bowie record. Its slightly lesser follow-up, 2003's **"Reality"** does age well.

"Black Tie, White Noise" SAVAGE

Middling

A popular album to crap on is 1987's **"Never Let Me Down,"** from his most profitable yet awful period. But here's the thing: It's pretty listenable.

Seeking to rebrand, he formed the hard rock **Tin Machine**, whose two albums (from 1989 and 1991) are driving but also monotonous. They're noble mediocrities, while 1993's **"Black Tie, White Noise"** is all over the place. It's better than 1999's **"Hours,"** which is the most boring record of his career.



"Tonight" EMI

Ye gods

Better so-so records than 1984's **"Tonight,"** his only outright terrible record. It's hard to imagine living through the comedown from "Let's Dance" to this, which was hastily assembled in an attempt to keep the New, Super-Popular Bowie train going.

If "Station to Station" sounds like '70s coke (because it was made while he was subsisting on nothing but cocaine, peppers and milk), this sounds like '80s coke: all bombast but little craft. But hey, it has "Blue Jean."

Miscellaneous

David Bowie has a rich acting résumé too. In the 1986 Jim Henson-George Lucas-Terry Jones fantasy **"Labyrinth,"** he introduced himself to a whole new generation of kids as one does: by playing a "goblin king" who tries seducing a 15-year-old Jennifer Connelly. It also meant more Bowie songs, and they're pretty good: "Magic Dance" and "Underground" are worthy antidotes to the "Tonight" era.

Bowie in "Labyrinth" PROVIDED

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Eagles team awards

Who were the best (and worst) contributors to the Birds this season?

EVAN MACY
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Eagles players and fans expected to be reading a preview of their playoff matchup this week instead of a look back at their failed season.

Chip Kelly expected to be plotting his next controversial trade, or how he could convince Sam Bradford to stay in Philadelphia instead of seeking a new coaching gig in San Francisco.

In one way or another, the Eagles players and leadership failed miserably this year, and a 7-9 record and long offseason is what they have to show for it. With so much attention being paid to the team's search for a new head coach and looking back at what went wrong, there were a few contributions that deserve recognition from the 2015 Eagles squad:

Team MVP

Fletcher Cox

Fletcher Cox's impact on the Eagles' defense expands far beyond his impressive stats, 9½ sacks, 79 tackles and three forced fumbles.

The big, powerful defensive lineman applied consistent pressure all season and served as a potent pass rusher and run-stopper, earning a well-deserved and overdue Pro Bowl selection.

Cox will remain with the Eagles for one more season at least, as the team exercised a $7.7 million option to keep him for the 2016.

Offensive Player of the Year

Jordan Matthews

It's an embarrassment of riches on offense, with the Eagles plummeting toward the bottom in most categories and few players posting impressive numbers.

Almost by default, Matthews' 997 yards and eight touchdowns give him the designation of the best offensive player. But it's not really saying much. His 152 receptions also rank as the 10th-highest total in NFL history by a player in his first two seasons.

Defensive Player of the Year

Malcolm Jenkins

Malcolm Jenkins played most of the season in a slot role in the sometimes perplexing Chip Kelly secondary. But he was almost always near the ball, leading all Eagles with 109 tackles — though few defenders were able to stay healthy for all 16 games like Jenkins did.

He also snatched two interceptions, one of them a 99-yard pick-six in the Birds' Week 13 win in New England.

Rookie of the Year

Jordan Hicks

Another decision by default, as the rest of the Eagles rookie class seemed to underachieve, Hicks was the Birds' best defensive player leading up to his season-ending injury at the season's midpoint.

Still, he was able to compile 50 tackles, the seventh-highest team total while adding two interceptions, one of them a pick-six, a forced fumble, fumble recovery and sack.

Most Overpaid Player

Riley Cooper

Cooper caught 21 passes for 327 yards and two touchdowns in 2015.

After 2016, Fletcher Cox will become an unrestricted free agent. GETTY IMAGES

He was paid $4 million for his effort, or just under $200,000 per catch. Though in the middle of a five-year deal, he is no longer owed guaranteed money and could possibly be cut this offseason.

Most Underpaid Player

Lane Johnson

While Jason Peters was honored with a Pro Bowl selection this season, based mostly on reputation, it was Johnson who anchored the Eagles offensive line — a unit that was constantly adapting and changing as injured players (including Peters) shuffled in and out.

For the low price of $585,000, Johnson played through a bevy of injuries himself but remained a constant up front helping to protect Sam Bradford.

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Wild Card weekend is here

The best bets for the first weekend of this year's NFL playoffs.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
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Metro breaks down the four NFL playoff games going on this weekend and tells you where to place your bets.

The Bengals and Steelers will square off this weekend in what is expected to be a hard-hitting affair. GETTY IMAGES

Saturday

Chiefs (-3) at Texans

Points will be a precious commodity in the opening game of the playoffs, as defense is the calling card for both of these teams; the Texans were third in YPG allowed this season while the Chiefs were seventh. Each team recorded over 40 sacks, which was good enough to make the top five in that category. Because of that, this game should be fought on the ground. Kansas City had the sixth-ranked rushing attack (127.8 YPG) in the regular season, led by Charcandrick West and Spencer Ware after Jamaal Charles was injured in Week 5. West and Ware carried the ball over 230 times combined but the duo fumbled just once — combined — the entire season.
The pick: Chiefs -3

Steelers (-3) at Bengals

Pittsburgh and Cincinnati split their season series, but differences in available personnel will make this game distinct from the other two. DeAngelo Williams, who has been carrying is considered day-to-day after hurting his foot against the Browns. That could force Ben Roethlisberger to win the game through the air, and it's hard to be one-dimensional and win playoff games. The Bengals will likely roll with A.J. McCarron at QB, who has filled in admirably since Andy Dalton got hurt early in the Bengals' 33-20 loss to Pittsburgh in Week 14 (his passer rating is 97.1). He should face little resistance from the Steelers' pass defense, which ranks 30th in YPG allowed.
The pick: Bengals +3

Who is the latest favorite to be the Eagles next coach?
metro.us

Sunday

Seahawks (-5) at Vikings

When these teams faced off Dec. 6, it was a blowout in favor of Seattle. And while that 38-7 score may not be indicative of how these teams match up, it's hard to envision Minnesota turning the tables Sunday. Teddy Bridgewater will try to lead his offense, ranked 29th in the league, against the powerhouse that still is the Seahawks' defense (ranked 2nd in the NFL), but it's unlikely he'll have much success. Seattle should be able to turn its momentum into another deep postseason run.
The pick: Seahawks -5

Packers (-1) at Redskins

Many have knocked Washington's strength of schedule, having played in the woeful NFC East, but the Packers don't have many quality wins to speak of this season either. Since handling Minnesota on Nov. 22, the Packers have failed to record a victory over a team with a winning record. It's hard to believe, but the Redskins outgained the Packers on offense by nearly 20 YPG this season, and have out-possessed Green Bay by an average of 31:44 to 30:08 on the year. This is due primarily to a lack of weapons around Aaron Rodgers this season, but Kirk Cousins has been a revelation for the Redskins, and has been tearing defenses apart lately.
The pick: Redskins +1

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THE WAY-TOO-EARLY TOP 10 LIST

The Steelers' high-powered offense will again, in 2016, be a good source of individual fantasy points. GETTY IMAGES

FANTASY SPORTS

ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us

For the next eight months, we can't be wrong. It's a beautiful feeling.

Real fantasy football decisions won't come until September, meaning we'll argue about all sorts of things related to the future. The best place to argue is at the top.

Obviously, quarterbacks are out of the discussion as they have been for years. Note that eight of fantasy's top-12 point-per-game QBs went after the ninth round this season. As for running backs, there's going to be a lot of "never again" people converting to the zero-RB religion.

1 Antonio Brown, WR, PIT

Ben Roethlisberger played in 12 games this season. In those, Brown had a 16-game pace of 158 catches for 2,132 yards and 13 touchdowns. The NFL records are 143 catches and 1,964 yards. He'll be just 28 years old next season.

2 Julio Jones, WR, ATL

Matt Ryan was not good, ranking 13th in YPA and 20th in passer rating as he struggled through the first year in Kyle Shanahan's offense. Julio still had a historic season with nine 100-yard games and 136 catches (tied with Brown for second-most ever). The 26-year-old Jones has missed one game in the last two years.

3 Odell Beckham, WR, NYG

Through two NFL seasons, Beckham is averaging 6.9 catches for 102.0 yards and 0.92 touchdowns. There's little reason to think he can't sustain that, especially with the Giants' inept defense showing no signs of immediate improvement.

4 DeAndre Hopkins, WR, HOU

Even with Brian Hoyer likely back as the Texans' starter, Hopkins is a safe pick due to volume. Bill O'Brien's team ranked third in seconds between plays and first in plays per game. Hopkins averaged an immense 12.0 targets per game.

5 Le'Veon Bell, RB, PIT

Two knee surgeries in the last two years is a concern, but at least the ACL is intact. Bell is the rare elite talent in top-tier offense that dominates in both the pass game and at the goal-line.

6 Allen Robinson, WR, JAX

Blake Bortles' sophomore season numbers were Favre-esque. Another leap into his third year means there's room for A-Rob to build on his 80-1,400-14 breakout.

7 Rob Gronkowski, TE, NE

It didn't feel like Gronk had a very good year, but he still went over 1,100 yards and 10 touchdowns for the second straight season. A better play in touchdown-heavy formats.

8 Dez Bryant, WR, DAL

Dez broke his foot in Week 1 and Tony Romo played in four games all year. Throw it out. In the previous three seasons, the 27-year-old Bryant never had less than 88 catches, 1,233 yards or 12 touchdowns.

9 David Johnson, RB, ARZ

Similar to Le'Veon, Johnson is uniquely gifted in the pass game and has been the Cardinals' preferred option at the goal-line. They've also made him an every-down player in the most critical of situations.

10 A.J. Green, WR, CIN

Five seasons in the NFL, five 1,000-yard seasons. Also only missed four games during that span and averaged 0.59 TDs per game. Safe as they come.

Making sense of the Phillies' offseason

The Phillies have taken a few bold steps in advancing their rebuilding project over the last couple of months.

ZANE STALBERG
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us

In 2016, the Phillies must continue to improve a lackluster roster. In that vein, Philadelphia's new president of baseball operations, Andy MacPhail, and general manager Matt Klentak have already made some impactful offseason moves. In order of importance, here are the five most significant:

1 Trading Ken Giles

When Klentak, who at age 35 is the youngest GM in team history, took the helm, he made a commitment to adding pitching depth to the organization at every level.

And, while the decision to trade Giles, who tallied 15 saves and a 1.80 ERA, was not a necessity, it allowed Klentak to turn a pitcher who throws 60 innings a year into five young pitchers.

Chief among them is Vincent Velasquez, who could immediately join Aaron Nola in the rotation at the start of 2016 along with Mark Appel, who is a former first overall pick. Appel is also Philadelphia's second best prospect, according to MLB.com.

2 Claiming Peter Bourjos Off Waivers

Under MacPhail and Klentak, the Phillies have already shown they are prepared to attempt several reclamation projects.

Speedy Peter Bourjos, who lost playing time to Mike Trout in Anaheim and once more to a host of outfielders in St. Louis, has a chance to make an impact in Philadelphia with more regular playing time.

The additions of Peter Bourjos and Jeremy Hellickson were sneaky good moves by the Phils' front office. GETTY IMAGES

3 Acquiring Jeremy Hellickson

Jeremy Hellickson's best years may be behind him, but he could very well end up being the crown jewel of Klentak's affinity for bounce-back candidates.

While the former Rookie of the Year has struggled over his last three seasons, he is just 28, and as recently as 2011, posted a 2.95 ERA, while being worth 3.5 wins above replacement.

4 Rule 5 pick Tyler Goeddel

Philadelphia has had success drafting talented outfielders such as Shane Victorino in the Rule 5 Draft.

They may have found another in 2015.

Goeddel, who hit .279, with 12 homers and 72 RBIs in 123 games at Double-A Montgomery last year, but was not protected on the Ray's 40-man roster, could end up being another Rule 5 steal.

5 Signing Andrew Bailey and Edward Mujica

One advantage of the Phillies' current standing as bottom-dwellers is that they can — and must — take risks in order to find value.

Bailey and Mujica certainly fit that mold.

Bailey is another former Rookie of the Year who has had a career beset by injuries. Mujica, meanwhile, broke out later in his career when he saved 37 games for the St. Louis Cardinals in 2013.

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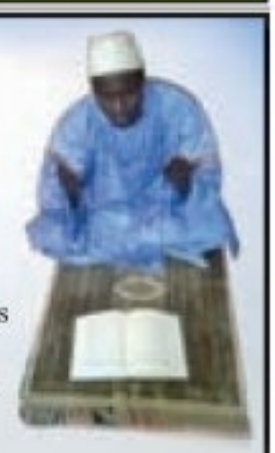

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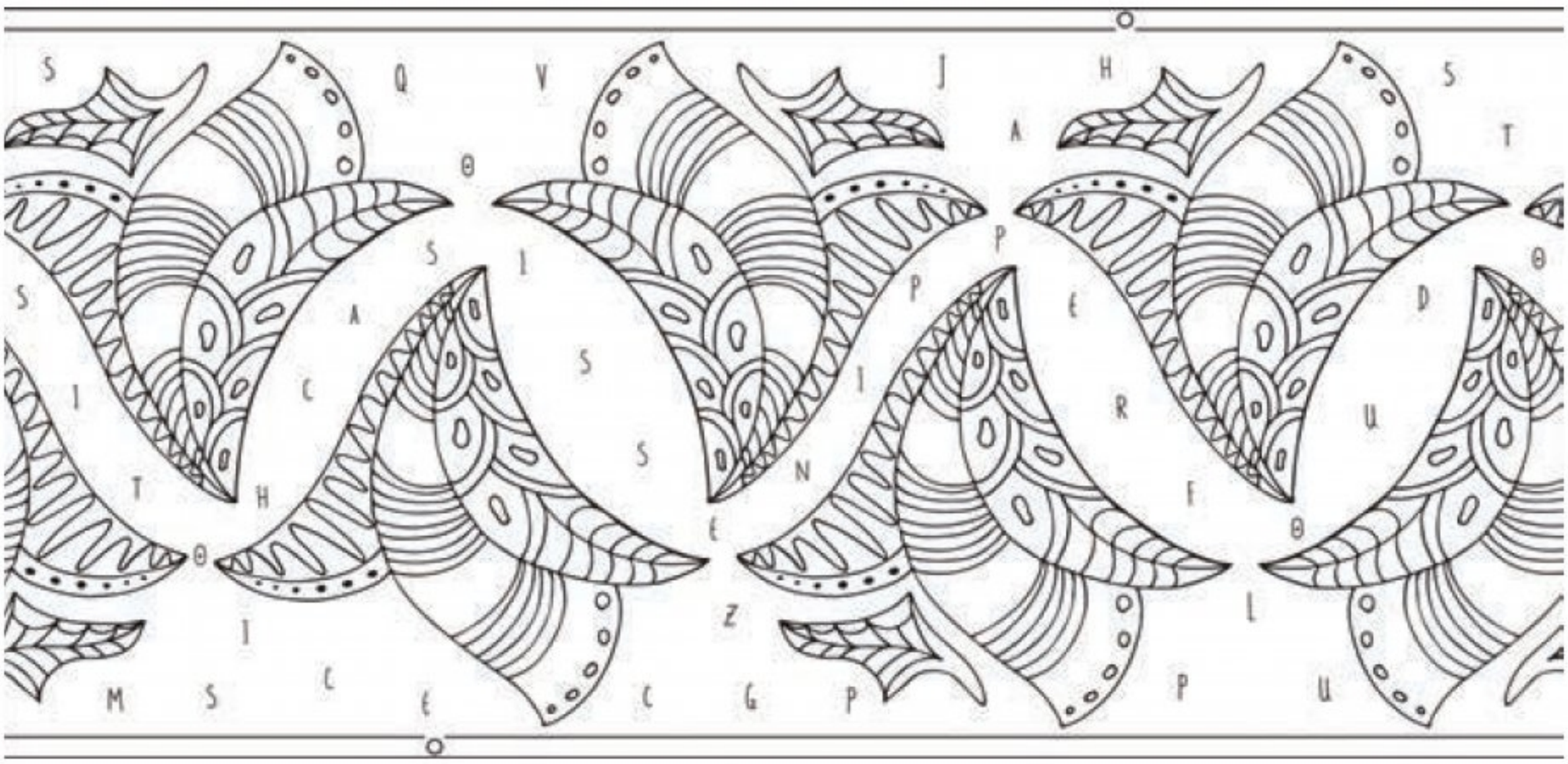

As you color, you'll come across some hidden treasures. See how many you can find.

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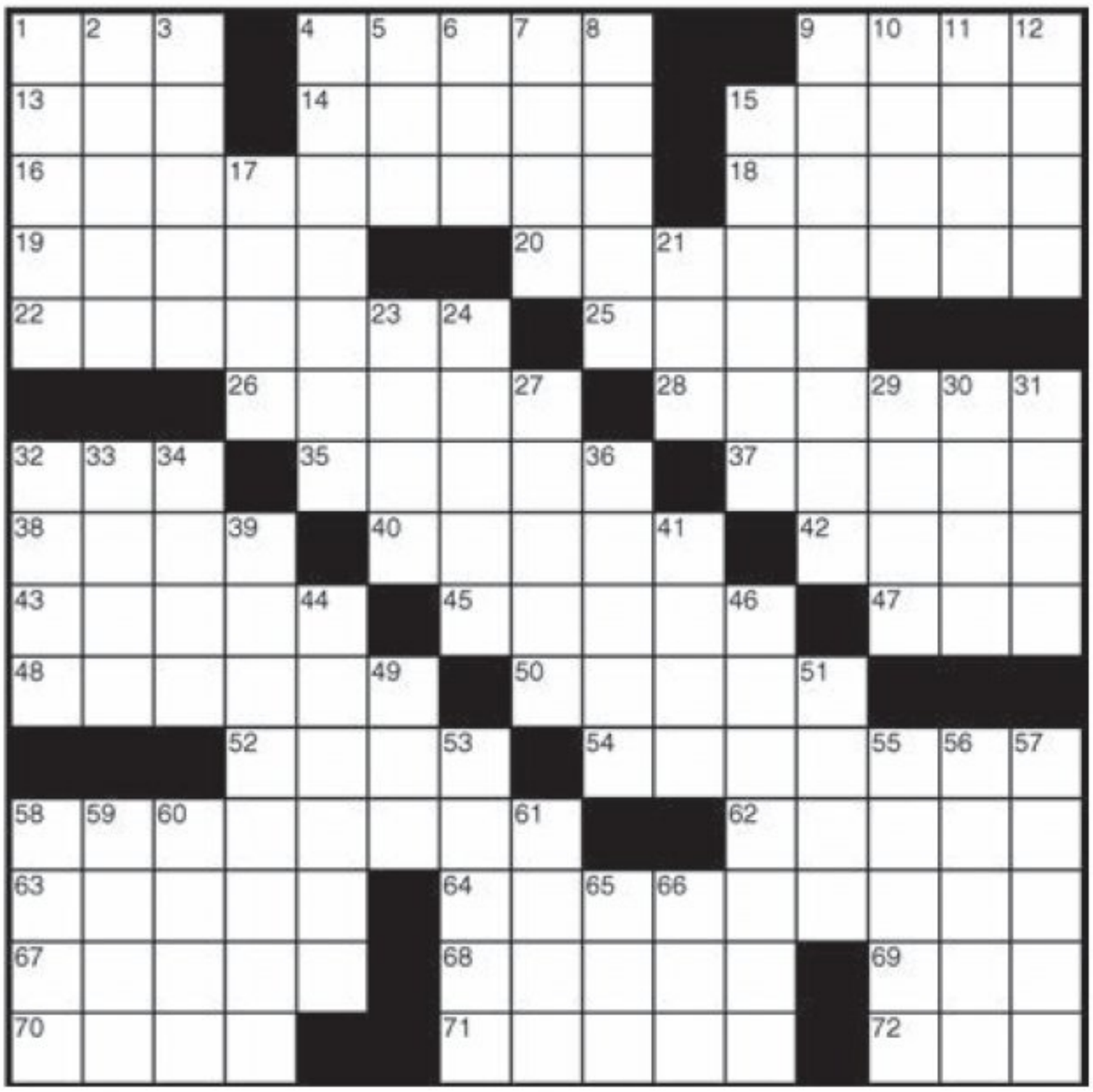
Across

1 Engineer's place
4 Wild fear
9 Karate blow
13 Famous Khan
14 Horse —
15 Windy City airport
16 Weather maker (2 wds.)
18 Thick soup
19 Not with-it
20 Grandeur
22 More spiteful
25 Water receptacle
26 Car style
28 Hidden
32 Path to satori
35 — up (evaluated)
37 "The Wreck of the Mary —"
38 Sporty trucks
40 Home of a brave
42 Hoarfrost
43 Very reluctant
45 — -toothed tiger
47 Drum, as fingers
48 Let loose
50 Nubby fabric
52 Penelope of films
54 Unsurprising
58 Wrapped up
62 Concur
63 Dry-land mollusk
64 It's full of life
67 Stall
68 Ms. Zellweger
69 Ventilate
70 Metallic sound
71 Rose-petal oil
72 Pocket jangler

Down

1 New Orleans cuisine
2 Booster rocket
3 Showers
4 Frozen food items
5 Loan abbr.
6 Bridal notice word
7 Some nest eggs
8 Pitches a tent
9 More thickset
10 Lacking empathy
11 Hydrox rival
12 Look curiously
15 In full bloom
17 Rides a bench
21 TV's "— and Maddie"
23 Check manuscripts
24 Demolishes
27 View from Everest
29 Paris milk
30 Funny Bombeck
31 Low in pitch
32 Language with clicks
33 007's alma mater
34 Not on the rocks
36 Red-ink entry
39 Adhering
41 Counting-rhyme start
44 Usher in
46 Spruce up the walls
49 Really liked
51 Close, to a poet
53 Striped animal
55 Spooky noise
56 Hawk's lair
57 On one's guard
58 Discreet summons
59 Opposed
60 "Slither" actor
61 Lose some
65 Niagara Falls prov.
66 Vast expanse

FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, metro.us/games



games

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Aries Take a pass on a job that has limited growth and benefits. If you believe in your ability, so will someone who can offer you what you are worth.

Taurus Discuss possibilities and share your ideas with someone who can contribute and help you make your dream come true.

Gemini Don't give up on your beliefs or adhere to someone else's lifestyle and traditions if they don't suit you. Living a lie will not make you happy.

Cancer You'll have insight into how you can make your dream a reality. An emotional relationship has the potential to enhance your creative imagination.

Leo Personal gains can be made. Bring about the changes you've been contemplating in order to be successful. Romance is on the rise.

Virgo It's up to you to make things happen. If you participate in events, you will reap the rewards. Don't let a personal situation stand in your way.

Libra Keep your thoughts to yourself and your emotions tucked away. Avoid getting into a dispute with someone you live with.

Scorpio Follow through with your plans, regardless of the temptations you face. Problems will develop if you trust anyone but yourself.

Sagittarius Be wary of anything that appears too good to be true. Stick to simple, foolproof means in order to avoid being taken advantage of.

Capricorn You can offer verbal help, but don't promise to take care of someone else's problems. You are better off expanding your interests.

Aquarius Love is highlighted, and romance will help you achieve your dream life. Closely guard a secret until you have everything in its place.

Pisces Don't take chances with your health. Illness will set you back if you are reckless. Be prepared to do what's necessary. **EUGENIA LAST**

metro.us/sudoku

easy

				8	1		4	2
5						7	9	1
		1	7	9			8	
				6				3
	3						7	
4				7				
	5			4	3	6		
3	2	4						7
9	1		8	5				

hard

2								
		8	3	7	6	4		
3				5			7	
8				4		9		
	3	5	2		7	1	4	
		7		3				6
	1			2				4
		2	7	8	4	5		
								9

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Status

1. Thanks for all the birthday greetings!
2. Random quotes from song lyrics
3. Status about the weather
4. Political opinions
5. My phone is broken/lost/stolen. Message me here if you need me.

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Special $22-23.80. Reg. $55-59.50. From Geoffrey Beene, Kenneth Cole Reaction and more. ★WebID 2342054.

SPECIAL 75% OFF
SWEATERS
Special 16.25-18.75. Reg. $65-$75. From WP Weatherproof, Geoffrey Beene and more. ★WebID 2308084.

SPECIAL 99.99
OUTERWEAR
Reg./Orig.* $225. Wool-blend and down styles from London Fog and more. Misses. ★WebID 2201511.

SPECIAL 19.99
SWEATERS
Orig.* $50-$60. From Cable & Gauge and more in The Mixing Room. Misses.

SPECIAL 60% OFF
MEN'S DRESS PANTS
Special $34. Reg. $85. From Perry Ellis Portfolio, Kenneth Cole Reaction, Louis Raphael and more. ★WebID 1965410.

SPECIAL 2 FOR $32
SELECT BRAS
Reg. $36-$42 ea. From Bali®, Maidenform® and more. ★WebID 677260. Also, panties. **Special 6 for $32.** Reg. $10-$12 ea.

SPECIAL 50% OFF
BOOTS FOR HER
Special 39.50-44.50. Reg. $79-$89. From Baretraps and White Mountain. From top: ★WebID 2507465 & ★2424989.

SPECIAL 40%-80% OFF
WHEN YOU TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OFF
Special 19.60-238.80. Orig.* $98-$398. Clearance designer handbags and wallets.

3-DAY SPECIALS! FRI-SUN
DURING THE SUPER SATURDAY SALE

MACY'S CARD/SAVINGS PASS DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY TO SPECIALS.

SPECIAL 65% OFF
14K GOLD RINGS
Special 52.50-$420. Reg. $150-$1,200. For example: ★WebID 1721975.

SPECIAL 29.99
QUEEN OR KING SHEET SET
Reg. $120-$140. 350-thread count Oakfield dobby dot in cotton with 2 pillowcases. ★WebID 905903.

SPECIAL 99.99
4-PC. SPINNER LUGGAGE SET
Reg. $340. **New & only at Macy's.** Travel Select Segovia. ★WebID 2346703.

SPECIAL 39.99
ANY SIZE COMFORTER
Reg. $110-$130. **Only at Macy's.** Down alternative by Home Design. ★WebID 1651185.

OR, USE THIS PASS FRI 'TIL 1PM OR SAT 'TIL 1PM OR SUN 'TIL 3PM

★macy's **WOW! $10 OFF**
SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL & HOME ITEMS (CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS)

$10 OFF YOUR PURCHASE OF $25 OR MORE.

MACYS.COM PROMO CODE: SUP25 EXCLUSIONS MAY DIFFER ON MACYS.COM

Also excludes: Deals of the Day, Doorbusters, Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, cosmetics/fragrances, electrics/electronics, floor coverings, furniture, mattresses, rugs. Also excludes: athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, Jack Spade, jewelry trunk shows, Kate Spade, Macy's Backstage merchandise/locations, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, Samsung watches, selected licensed depts., services, special orders, special purchases, The North Face, Tumi. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $25 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.

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VALID 1/8 'TIL 1PM OR 1/9 'TIL 1PM OR 1/10/16 'TIL 3PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

OR, USE YOUR MACY'S CARD OR THIS PASS FRI-SUN

★macy's **WOW! PASS**
EXTRA SAVINGS ON SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL! (EXCEPT SPECIALS & SUPER BUYS)

EXTRA 15% OFF

SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL FOR HIM, HER & KIDS, PLUS FINE & FASHION JEWELRY **EXTRA 10% OFF** SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE WATCHES, SHOES, COATS, SUITS, DRESSES, INTIMATES, SWIM FOR HER; SUIT SEPARATES & SPORTCOATS FOR HIM & HOME ITEMS

MACYS.COM PROMO CODE: SUPER EXCLUSIONS MAY DIFFER ON MACYS.COM

Excludes: Deals of the Day, Doorbusters, Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, cosmetics/fragrances, electrics/electronics, floor coverings, furniture, mattresses, rugs. Also excludes: athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, Jack Spade, jewelry trunk shows, Kate Spade, Macy's Backstage merchandise/locations, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, Samsung watches, selected licensed depts., services, special orders, special purchases, The North Face, Tumi. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer except opening a new Macy's account. EXTRA SAVINGS % APPLIED TO REDUCED PRICES.

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VALID VALID 1/8-1/10/2016. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

BUY ONLINE, PICK UP IN STORE IT'S FAST, FREE AND EASY! DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/STOREPICKUP
FREE SHIPPING ONLINE & FREE RETURNS FREE SHIPPING WITH $99 PURCHASE. U.S. ONLY. EXCLUSIONS APPLY; SEE MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

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Fine jewelry specials are available only in stores that carry fine jewelry. REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES & SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. SUPER SATURDAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 1/8-1/10/2016, EXCEPT AS NOTED. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights are approx; variance may be .05 carat. Jewelry photo may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty & require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Extra savings taken off already-reduced prices; "special" prices reflect extra savings. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's & selection may vary by store. Specials are available while supplies last. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Electrics & luggage carry mfrs' warranties; **to see a mfr's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to:** Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties. N5120420.

OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO $100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of $100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.